

What is claimed is:

1. A method for transmitting orthogonal frequency division multiplexing (OFDM) signals, the method comprising:

- (a) coding the OFDM signals;
(b) forming a block of N coded data and dividing the block into L M-sized small blocks, where N, M and L indicate integers of 1 or more, and $L = N/M$;
(c) M-point inverse fast Fourier transforming the L small blocks;
(d) combining L M-point inverse fast Fourier transformed blocks, and generating an N-sized inversely-transformed block;
(e) attaching a cyclic prefix to the N-sized inversely-transformed block; and
(f) transforming the blocks having the attached cyclic prefix, into an analog signal and transmitting the transformed analog signal.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein when N code data forming the one block are expressed by X_n , where $n = 0, 1, \dots, N-1$, each of the L small blocks X_v^l , where $l = 0, 1, \dots, L-1$, in step (b) is divided corresponding to the Equation

$$X_v^l = X_{lM+v} = X_n, n=lM+v, l=0, 1, \dots, L-1, v=0, 1, \dots, M-1,$$

and when a signal obtained by M-point inverse fast Fourier transforming the code data X_v^l of each small block, is x_m^l , the inversely-transformed blocks x_k , where $k = 0, 1, \dots, N-1$, in step (d) are combined, corresponding to the Equation

$$x_k = x_{lM+m} = x_m^l, k=lM+m, l=0, 1, \dots, L-1, m=0, 1, \dots, M-1.$$

3. The method of claim 1, wherein when N code data forming the one block are expressed by X_n , where $n=0, 1, \dots, N-1$, each of the L small blocks X_v^l , where $l=0, 1, \dots, L-1$ is divided corresponding to Equation

$$X_v^l = X_{LM+v}^l = X_n^l, n=LM+v, l=0,1,\dots,L-1, v=0,1,\dots,M-1,$$

4 and when a signal obtained by M-point inverse fast Fourier transforming code data
5 X_v^l of each small block is x_m^l , the inversely transformed block x_k , where $k=0,1,\dots,N-1$,
6 in step (d) is combined corresponding to the Equation

$$x_k = x_{mL+l} = x_m^l, k=mL+l, l=0,1,\dots,L-1, m=0,1,\dots,M-1.$$

- 1 4. A method for receiving OFDM signals, comprising:
2 (a) digitally converting received OFDM signals and obtaining a signal sample
3 from the transformed signals;
4 (b) detecting the starting point of an N-sized signal sample block from the
5 signal samples, and removing a cyclic prefix;
6 (c) dividing the signal sample block into L M-sized small blocks, where N, M
7 and L are integers of 1 or more, and $L = N/M$;
8 (d) M-point inverse fast Fourier transforming the L small blocks;
9 (e) combining the L M-point inverse fast Fourier transformed small blocks,
10 and generating an N-sized transform block, and
11 (f) detecting data from the N-sized transform block, and decoding the
12 detected data.

1 5. The method of claim 4, wherein when N signal samples forming the
2 signal sample block are expressed by ω_k , where $k=0,1,\dots,N-1$, each of the L small
3 blocks ω_m^l , where $l=0,1,\dots,L-1$, is divided in correspondence to
4 $\omega_m^l = \omega_{LM+m}^l = \omega_k$, where $k=LM+m, l=0,1,\dots,L-1$, and $m=0,1,\dots,M-1$, in step (c), and
5 when a signal obtained by M-point fast Fourier transforming the signal
6 sample ω_m^l is W_v^l , the N-sized transform block Z_n , where $n=0,1,\dots,N-1$ is coupled

7 corresponding to $Z_n = Z_{lM+v} = W_v^l$ where $n = lM+v$, $l=0,1,\dots,L-1$, and $v=0,1,\dots,M-1$,
8 in step (e).

1 6. The method of claim 4, wherein when N signal samples forming the
2 signal sample block are expressed by ω_k , where $k=0,1,\dots,N-1$, L small blocks
3 ω_m^l , where $l=0,1,\dots,L-1$ are respectively divided in correspondence to
4 $\omega_m^l = \omega_{mL+l} = \omega_k$, where $k=mL+l$, $l=0,1,\dots,L-1$, and $m=0,1,\dots,M-1$, in step (c), and
5 when a signal obtained by M-point fast Fourier transforming the signal
6 sample ω_m^l is W_v^l , the N-sized transform block Z_n , where $n=0,1,\dots,N-1$, is coupled in
7 correspondence to $Z_n = Z_{lM+v} = W_v^l$, where $n=lM+v$, $l=0,1,\dots,L-1$, and $v=0,1,\dots,M-1$,
8 in step (e).

1 7. The method of claim 4, between the steps (b) and (c), further
2 comprising steps of:

3 (b1) N-point fast Fourier transforming the N-sized signal sample block;

4 (b2) compensating the distortion due to a channel by multiplying the N-point
5 fast Fourier transformed value in step (b1) by the tap coefficients of a frequency
6 domain equalizer; and

7 (b3) N-point inverse fast Fourier transforming N samples in which the
8 distortion is compensated in step (b2).

1 8. An apparatus for transmitting OFDM signals, comprising:
2 an encoder for encoding OFDM signals;
3 a transmission deinterleaver for forming N encoded code data into a block,
4 and dividing the block into L M-sized small blocks, where N, M and L are integers of
5 1 or more, and $L=N/M$;

6 L M-point inverse fast Fourier transformers for M-point inverse fast Fourier
7 transforming the L small blocks;

8 a signal transmission interleaver for coupling L M-point inverse fast Fourier
9 transformed small blocks, thereby generating an N-sized inverse transformed block;

10 a cyclic prefix adder for adding a cyclic prefix to the N-sized inversely
11 transformed block; and

12 a digital-to-analog converter for analog-transforming the inversely-
13 transformed block to which the cyclic prefix is added and transmitting the analog-
14 transformed signal.

1 9. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein when N code data forming the block
2 is expressed by X_n , where $n=0,1,\dots,N-1$, the signal transmission deinterleaver
3 divides each of the L small blocks X_v^l , where $l=0,1,\dots,L-1$, in correspondence to
4 Formula $X_v^l = X_{lM+v} = X_n$, where $n=lM+v$, $l=0,1,\dots,L-1$, and $v=0,1,\dots,M-1$, and
5 when a signal obtained by M-point inverse fast Fourier transforming code
6 data X_v^l is x_m^l , the signal transmission interleaver couples the inversely transformed
7 block x_k , where $k=0,1,\dots,N-1$, in correspondence to the Equation
8 $x_k = x_{lM+m} = x_m^l$, where $k=lM+m$, $l=0,1,\dots,L-1$, and $m=0,1,\dots,M-1$.

1 10. The apparatus of claim 8, wherein when N code data forming the block
2 is expressed by X_n , where $n=0,1,\dots,N-1$, the signal transmission deinterleaver
3 divides each of the L small blocks X_v^l , where $l=0,1,\dots,L-1$ in correspondence to
4 Formula $X_v^l = X_{lM+v} = X_n$, where $n=lM+v$, $l=0,1,\dots,L-1$, and $v=0,1,\dots,M-1$, and
5 when a signal obtained by M-point inverse fast Fourier transforming code
6 data X_v^l is x_m^l , the signal transmission interleaver couples the inversely transformed
7 block x_k , where $k=0,1,\dots,N-1$ in correspondence to Formula
8 $x_k = x_{mL+l} = x_m^l$, where $k=mL+l$, $l=0,1,\dots,L-1$, and $m=0,1,\dots,M-1$.

1 11. An apparatus for receiving OFDM signals, comprising:
2 an analog-to-digital converter for obtaining signal samples by digital-
3 converting received OFDM signals;
4 a cyclic prefix remover for finding the starting point of an N-sized signal
5 sample block from the signal samples, and removing a cyclic prefix;
6 a signal receiving deinterleaver for dividing the signal sample block into L M-
7 sized small blocks, where N, M and L are integers of 1 or more, and $L = N/M$;

8 L M-point fast Fourier transformers for M-point fast Fourier transforming the L
9 small blocks;

10 a signal receiving interleaver for interleaving the L M-point fast Fourier
11 transformed small blocks, thereby generating an N-sized transform block;

12 a detector for detecting data from the N-sized transform block; and

13 a decoder for decoding the detected data.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein when N signal samples forming the
2 signal sample block are expressed by ω_k , where $k=0,1,\dots,N-1$, the signal receiving
3 deinterleaver divides each of the L small blocks ω_m^l , where $l=0,1,\dots,L-1$ in
4 correspondence to Equation

5 $\omega_m^l = \omega_{lM+m} = \omega_k$, where $k=lM+m$, $l=0,1,\dots,L-1$, and $m=0,1,\dots,M-1$, and

6 when a signal obtained by M-point fast Fourier transforming signal samples
7 ω_m^l is W_v^l , the signal receiving interleaver couples the N-sized transform block
8 Z_n , $n=0,1,\dots,N-1$ in correspondence to Formula

9 $Z_n = Z_{lM+v} = W_v^l$, where $n = lM+v$, $l=0,1,\dots,L-1$, and $v=0,1,\dots,M-1$.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein when N signal samples forming the
2 signal sample block are expressed by ω_k , where $k=0,1,\dots,N-1$, the signal receiving
3 deinterleaver divides each of the L small blocks ω_m^l , where $l=0,1,\dots,L-1$ in
4 correspondence to Equation

5 $\omega_m^l = \omega_{mL+l} = \omega_k$, where $k=mL+l$, $l=0,1,\dots,L-1$, and $m=0,1,\dots,M-1$, and

6 when a signal obtained by M-point fast Fourier transforming signal samples
7 ω_m^l is W_v^l , the signal receiving interleaver couples the N-sized transform block
8 Z_n , where $n=0,1,\dots,N-1$ in correspondence to Equation

9 $Z_n = Z_{lM+v} = W_v^l$, where $n = lM+v$, $l=0,1,\dots,L-1$, and $v=0,1,\dots,M-1$.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising

2 an N-point fast Fourier transformer for N-point fast Fourier transforming an N-
3 sized signal sample block in which a cyclic prefix is removed by the cyclic prefix
4 remover;

5 a frequency domain equalizer for compensating for the distortion caused by a
6 channel by multiplying the values transformed by the N-point fast Fourier
7 transformer by the tap coefficients of the frequency domain equalizer; and
8 an N-point inverse fast Fourier transformer for inversely transforming the N
9 samples having distortion compensated for by the frequency domain equalizer and
10 outputting the inversely transformed samples to the receiving deinterleaver.

1 15. An apparatus for transmitting OFDM signals, the apparatus
2 comprising:

3 a pre-processor for encoding an input data sequence and converting the
4 encoded data to parallel data;

5 a block signal domain transformer for dividing the encoded data into blocks of
6 predetermined sizes, inserting "0" at the first data position of each block,
7 transforming each block into a time domain signal, and combining time domain
8 signals;

9 a pilot signal adder for converting pilot tones, which are to be inserted at
10 positions other than a predetermined position among the positions at which "0" has
11 been inserted in the block signal domain transformer, into time domain pilot signals,
12 and adding the pilot signals to the time domain signals output by the block signal
13 domain transformer; and

14 a post-processor for converting the resultant signals of the pilot signal adder
15 to serial signals, adding a cyclic prefix to each of the converted signals, converting
16 the resultant signals to analog signals, and transmitting the analog signals.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein the block signal domain
2 transformer comprises:

3 a transmission deinterleaver for dividing the encoded data into L M-sized
4 blocks;

5 a "0" inserter for inserting "0" at the first position of each block;

6 an $L \times (M\text{-IFFT})$ for performing inverse fast Fourier transformation on each
7 block; and

8 a transmission interleaver for combining the time domain signals with each
9 other.

1 17. An apparatus for receiving OFDM signals, comprising:
2 a pre-processor for converting a received OFDM signal to a digital signal,
3 removing a cyclic prefix from the digital signal, converting the resultant signal to
4 parallel signals of predetermined sizes, and transforming each of the parallel signals
5 to a frequency domain signal;
6 a channel estimator for inserting virtual pilot tones at predetermined positions
7 of the frequency domain signal, extracting the virtual pilot tones and pilot tones
8 added upon transmission, and estimating channel characteristics from the extracted
9 virtual pilot tones and pilot tones;
10 an equalizer for compensating for distortion of the output signal of the pre-
11 processor caused by a channel, according to the estimated channel characteristics;
12 an intermediate processor for converting the output signal of the equalizer to
13 a time domain signal and removing pilot signals from the time domain signal;
14 a signal domain transformer for transforming the output signal of the
15 intermediate processor to a frequency domain signal; and
16 a post-processor for detecting transmission data from the frequency domain
17 signal, converting the detected data to serial data, and decoding the serial data.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the channel estimator comprises:
2 a pilot tone extractor for extracting the pilot tones from the frequency domain
3 signal;
4 a virtual pilot tone inserter for making a virtual pilot tone from the extracted
5 pilot tones and inserting the virtual pilot tone at predetermined positions of the
6 frequency domain signal;
7 a transform domain converter for fast Fourier transforming the extracted pilot
8 tones and virtual pilot tone to a transform domain signal;

9 an adaptive low pass filter for removing pilot tones whose amplitudes are less
10 than or equal to a predetermined level, among the pilot tones of the transform
11 domain;

12 a "0" padder for padding positions from which pilot tones are removed with
13 "0"; and

14 a frequency domain transformer for transforming the output signal of the "0"
15 padder to a frequency domain signal.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the virtual pilot tone inserter
2 obtains the average of the second pilot tone and the last pilot tone among the
3 extracted pilot tones from the pilot tone extractor and inserts the obtained average
4 into the position of the first pilot tone.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the signal domain transformer
2 comprises:

3 a receiving deinterleaver for dividing a time domain signal into L M-sized
4 blocks;

5 an $L \times (M\text{-FFT})$ for performing fast Fourier transformation on each block; and

6 a receiving interleaver for combining signals that have been transformed to
7 frequency domain signals.

1 ~~21.~~ A method of transmitting OFDM signals, comprising:

2 (a) encoding an input data sequence, and converting encoded data to
3 parallel data;

4 (b) dividing the encoded data into blocks of predetermined sizes and
5 inserting "0" at the first position of each block;

6 (c) transforming each block to which "0" is inserted, to a time domain signal,
7 and combining the time domain signals;

8 (d) transforming pilot tones, which are to be inserted at positions other than a
9 predetermined position among the positions at which "0" has been inserted, into

10 time domain pilot signals, and adding each of the pilot signals to the time domain
11 signal of each block; and

12 (e) converting the resultant signal of the step (d) to a serial signal, adding a
13 cyclic prefix to the converted signal, converting the resultant signal to an analog
14 signal, and transmitting the analog signal.

1 22. The method of claim 21, wherein when the decoded data is expressed
2 by X_n , where $n = 0, 1, \dots, N-1$, the predetermined sized blocks
3 X_v^l , where $l = 0, 1, \dots, L-1$ and $v=0, 1, \dots, M-1$, in step (b) are respectively divided
4 corresponding to the Equation

$$X_v^l = X_{lM+v} = X_n, \text{ where } n=lM+v, l=0, 1, \dots, L-1, \text{ and } v=0, 1, \dots, M-1,$$

5 and when a time domain signal to which data X_v^l per block is converted, is x_m^l , the
6 signals x_k , where $k = 0, 1, \dots, N-1$ in step (c) are combined, corresponding to the
7 Equation:

$$x_k = x_{lM+m} = x_m^l, \text{ where } k=lM+m, l=0, 1, \dots, L-1, \text{ and } m=0, 1, \dots, M-1.$$

1 23. The method of claim 21, wherein when the decoded data is expressed
2 by X_n , where $n=0, 1, \dots, N-1$, each of the predetermined sized blocks
3 X_v^l , where $l=0, 1, \dots, L-1$ is divided corresponding to the Equation:

$$X_v^l = X_{lM+v} = X_n, \text{ where } n=lM+v, l=0, 1, \dots, L-1, \text{ and } v=0, 1, \dots, M-1,$$

4 and when a time domain signal to which data X_v^l of each block is converted is x_m^l ,
5 the combined signals x_k , $k=0, 1, \dots, N-1$ in step (c) are combined corresponding to the
6 Equation:

$$x_k = x_{mL+l} = x_m^l, \text{ where } k=mL+l, l=0,1,\dots,L-1, \text{ and } m=0,1,\dots,M-1$$

1 24. A method of receiving OFDM signals, comprising:

2 (a) converting a received signal into a digital signal, removing a cyclic prefix
3 from the digital signal, converting the resultant signal into parallel signals of
4 predetermined sizes, and converting each parallel signal to a frequency domain
5 signal;

6 (b) inserting a virtual pilot tone at predetermined positions of the frequency
7 domain signal and extracting the virtual pilot tone and pilot tones added upon
8 transmission;

9 (c) estimating channel characteristics from the extracted virtual pilot tone and
10 pilot tones;

11 (d) compensating for distortion caused by a channel with respect to the
12 frequency domain signal, according to the estimated channel characteristics;

13 (e) transforming a distortion-compensated signal into a time domain signal
14 and removing pilot signals from the time domain signal; and

15 (f) detecting transmission data by transforming the resultant signals of the
16 step (e) to a frequency domain signal, and converting the detected transmission
17 data to serial data and decoding the serial data.

1 25. The method of claim 24, wherein the step (c) comprises:

2 (c1) inserting the virtual pilot tone at predetermined positions of the frequency
3 domain signal;

4 (c2) extracting pilot tones and the virtual pilot tone from the frequency domain
5 signal;

6 (c3) converting the extracted pilot tones and the extracted virtual pilot tone to
7 a transform domain signal, and removing pilot signals in the transform domain, the
8 amplitude of each is less than or equal to a predetermined level, among the pilot
9 signals of the transform domain;

(c4) padding positions from which the pilot signals of the transform domain are removed, with "0"; and

(c5) transforming the resultant signal of the step (c4) to a frequency domain signal.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein the virtual pilot tone in the step (c1) is inserted at the position of the first pilot tone, and the virtual pilot tone has an amplitude which is the average of the second pilot tone and the last pilot tone among the extracted pilot tones.

27. The method of claim 24, wherein the conversion of the resultant signal of the step (e) to a frequency domain signal in step (f) comprises:
dividing the resultant signal of the step (e) into L M-sized blocks;
performing M-point fast Fourier transformation on each block; and
combining the resultant signals of the above step.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein when N signal samples forming each block are expressed by ω_k , where $k=0,1,\dots,N-1$, each of the L blocks ω_m^l , where $l=0,1,\dots,L-1$ and $m=0,1,\dots,M-1$, is divided in correspondence to $\omega_m^l = \omega_{lM+m} = \omega_k$, where $k=lM+m$, $l=0,1,\dots,L-1$, and $m=0,1,\dots,M-1$, in step (f1), and when a signal obtained by M-point fast Fourier transforming the signal sample ω_m^l is W_v^l , the resultant signal Z_n , where $n=0,1,\dots,N-1$, of the step (f2) is coupled corresponding to $Z_n = Z_{lM+v} = W_v^l$, where $n = lM+v$, $l=0,1,\dots,L-1$, and $v=0,1,\dots,M-1$.

29. The method of claim 27, wherein signal samples forming each of the blocks are expressed by ω_k , where $k=0,1,\dots,N-1$, each of the L blocks ω_m^l , where $l=0,1,\dots,L-1$, and $m=0,1,\dots,M-1$, is divided in correspondence to $\omega_m^l = \omega_{mL+l} = \omega_k$, where $k=mL+l$, $l=0,1,\dots,L-1$, and $m=0,1,\dots,M-1$, in step (f1); and when a signal obtained by M-point fast Fourier transforming the signal sample ω_m^l is W_v^l , the resultant signal Z_n , where $n=0,1,\dots,N-1$ of step (f3) is coupled

7 in correspondence to

8 $Z_n = Z_{lM+v} = W_v^l$, where $n=lM+v$, $l=0,1,\dots,L-1$, and $v=0,1,\dots,M-1$.